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| (1390 REV. 5-93) US DEPT. OF COMMERCE PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 111717 |
| TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 | | U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, sec 37 C.F.R.1.5) |
| | | 10/030636 |
| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/01844 | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE June 7, 2000 | PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED June 7, 1999 |
| TITLE OF INVENTION A PARQUET STRIP, THE USE THEREOF FOR MANUFACTURING A PANEL OR A PARQUET ELEMENT AS WELL AS A PARQUET ELEMENT MANUFACTURED THEREFROM AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A PARQUET STRIP | | |
| APPLICANTS FOR DO/EO/US Peter HAMBERGER, August HIPPER | | |
| Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: | | |
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under <u>35 U.S.C. 371</u> . 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventors (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). | | |
| Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included: | | |
| 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Entitlement to small entity status is hereby asserted. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Petition to Revive Unintentionally Abandoned Application | | |

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) 37 107030830 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/01844 ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 111717

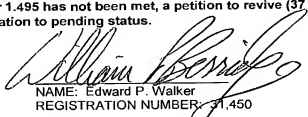
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|--|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: | | | | CALCULATIONS | PTO USE ONLY |
| Basic National fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO\$890.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR1.482)\$710.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))\$740.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO\$1,040.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)\$ 100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = | | | | \$890.00 | |
| Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). | | | | \$ | |
| Claims | Number Filed | Number Extra | Rate | | |
| Total Claims | 5- 20 = | 0 | X \$ 18.00 | \$ | |
| Independent Claims | 2- 3 = | 0 | X \$ 84.00 | \$ | |
| Multiple dependent claim(s)(if applicable) | | | + \$280.00 | \$ | |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$890.00 | |
| Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. | | | | - \$ | |
| SUBTOTAL = | | | | \$890.00 | |
| Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 month from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). | | | | \$ | |
| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = | | | | \$890.00 | |
| | | | | Amount to be refunded | \$ |
| | | | | Charged | \$ |

- a. ☒ Check No. 126751 in the amount of \$890.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
 b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
 c. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 15-0461. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
 OLUFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
 P.O. Box 19928
 Alexandria, Virginia 22320

Date: January 11, 2002


 NAME: Edward P. Walker
 REGISTRATION NUMBER: 31,450

NAME: William P. Berridge
 REGISTRATION NUMBER: 30,024

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Peter HAMBERGER et al.

Application No.: 10/030,636

Filed: January 11, 2002

Docket No.: 111717

For: A PARQUET STRIP, THE USE THEREOF FOR MANUFACTURING A PANEL OR
A PARQUET ELEMENT AS WELL AS A PARQUET ELEMENT MANUFACTURED
THEREFROM AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A PARQUET STRIP

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 5 and 6 as follows:

5. (Amended) A parquet strip as a part of a parquet element including two long sides and two narrow sides, an impregnation being supplied onto the faces of the narrow sides at least over a part of their elevation.
6. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a floor panel, comprising a medial or supporting layer onto the area of support of which a stress compensating means can be applied and onto the surface of which a plurality of parquet strips can be applied, characterized in that before glueing with the supporting layer an impregnation is applied onto the faces of the narrow sides of each parquet strip at least over a part of their elevation.


Application No. 10/030,636

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment claims 5 and 6 are amended. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,


Edward P. Walker
Registration No. 31,450Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

EPW:JSA/cmm

Date: March 29, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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| DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461 |
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Peter HAMBERGER, August HIPPER

Application No.: U.S. National Stage
of PCT/DE00/01844

Filed: January 11, 2002

Docket No.: 111717

For: A PARQUET STRIP, THE USE THEREOF FOR MANUFACTURING A PANEL OR
A PARQUET ELEMENT AS WELL AS A PARQUET ELEMENT MANUFACTURED
THEREFROM AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A PARQUET STRIP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 and 4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter
contained therein.

Please replace claims 2 & 3 as follows:

2. (Amended) A parquet strip according to claim 5, characterized in that the
impregnation extends over the entire elevation of the narrow sides and/or the long sides.
3. (Amended) A parquet element including a plurality of parquet strips according to
claim 5 which are arranged on a supporting layer.

Please add new claims 5-7 as follow:

- 5. A parquet strip as a part of a parquet element including two long sides and two narrow
sides, an impregnation being supplied onto the faces of the long sides and the narrow sides at
least over a part of their elevation. --

-- 6. A method of manufacturing a floor panel, comprising a medial or supporting layer onto the area of support of which a stress compensating means can be applied and onto the surface of which a plurality of parquet strips can be applied, characterized in that before glueing with the supporting layer an impregnation is applied onto the faces of each parquet strip at least over a part of their elevation. --

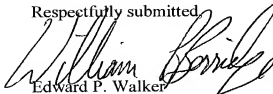
-- 7. A parquet element including a plurality of parquet strips according to claim 2 which are arranged on a supporting layer. --

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are cancelled, claims 5-6 are added in their place, and claim 3 is amended and claim 7 is added to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



Edward P. Walker
Registration No. 31,450

William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

EPW:WPB/cmm

Attachment: Appendix

Date: January 11, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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|--|

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 1 and 4 are canceled.

Claims 5-7 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

2. (Amended) A parquet strip according to claim ~~1~~ 5, characterized in that the impregnation extends over the entire elevation of the narrow sides (~~8, 10~~) and/or the long sides (~~4, 6~~).
3. (Amended) A parquet element including a plurality of parquet strips (~~2~~) according to claim ~~1 or 2~~ 5 which are arranged on a supporting layer (~~18~~).

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

5. (Amended) A parquet strip as a part of a parquet element including two long sides and two narrow sides, an impregnation being supplied onto the faces of ~~the long sides and the~~ narrow sides at least over a part of their elevation.
6. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a floor panel, comprising a medial or supporting layer onto the area of support of which a stress compensating means can be applied and onto the surface of which a plurality of parquet strips can be applied, characterized in that before glueing with the supporting layer an impregnation is applied onto the faces of the narrow sides of each parquet strip at least over a part of their elevation.

(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES PATENTRECHTS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

(19) Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum
Internationales Büro(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum
14. Dezember 2000 (14.12.2000)

PCT

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(71) Anmelder (für alle Bezeichnungen mit Ausnahme von US): HAMBURGER INDUSTRIEWERKE GMBH (DE); Robertorfer Straße 133, D-83071 Stephanskirchen (DE).

(21) Internationales Aktenzeichen:

PCT/DE0001844

(22) Internationales Anmeldedatum:

7. Juni 2000 (07.06.2000)

(72) Erfinder; und

(75) Erfinder/Anmelder (nur für US): HAMBURGER, Peter (DE/DB); Robertorfer Straße 113, D-83071 Stephanskirchen (DE). HIEFFER, August (DE/DE); Osterham 21, D-83101 Rohrdorf (DE).

(25) Einreichungssprache:

Deutsch

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Deutsch

(58) Angaben zur Priorität:
199 25 865.1

7. Juni 1999 (07.06.1999)

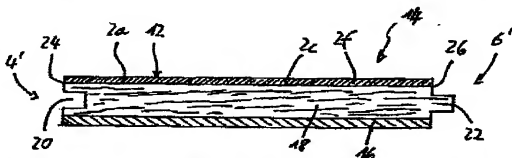
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(74) Anwalt: WINTER, BRANDL, FÜRNISS, HÜHNER, RÖSS, KÄRBER, POLTE PARTNERSCHAFT; Bernauerstr. 10, D-80336 München von. (DE).

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: PARQUET LAMELLA, THE USE OF THE SAME FOR PRODUCING A PARQUET PANEL OR PARQUET ELEMENT, A PARQUET ELEMENT PRODUCED FROM THE SAME AND A METHOD FOR PRODUCING A PARQUET LAMELLA

(54) Bezeichnung: PARKETT-LAMELLE, DEREN VERWENDUNG ZUR HERSTELLUNG EINES PANELS ODER PARKETT-ELEMENTS, SOWIE HERAUS HERGESTELLTES PARKETT-ELEMENT UND VERFAHREN ZUR HERSTELLUNG EINER PARKETT-LAMELLE



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a parquet lamella, comprising two long sides (4, 6) which run in the longitudinal direction of the lamella (2) and two narrow sides (8, 10) which run in a transverse direction to the lamella (2). The front faces of the two long sides (4, 6) are impregnated at least over part of their extension. According to the invention, the front faces of the two narrow sides (8, 10) are also impregnated at least over part of their extension. A number of these parquet lamellae (2, 2a, 2b, 2c, ...) can be used for producing a panel or parquet element (14), comprising two long sides (4', 6') which run in a longitudinal direction to the element (14) and two narrow sides (8', 10') which run in a transverse direction to the element (14). One long side (4') has a groove (20) and the opposite long side (6') has a tongue (22) and the front faces of both long sides (4', 6') are impregnated at least over part of their extension. The front faces of both narrow sides (8', 10') are also impregnated at least over part of their extension.

(57) Zusammenfassung: Beschrieben wird eine Parkettlamelle mit zwei in Längsrichtung der Lamelle (2) verlaufenden Längsseiten (4, 6) und zwei in Querrichtung der Lamelle (2) verlaufenden Schmalseiten (8, 10), wobei die Stirnflächen der beiden Längsseiten (4, 6) mindestens über einen Teil ihrer Höhenstreckung mit einer Imprägnierung versehen sind. Entsprechend sind die Stirnflächen der beiden Schmalseiten (8, 10) mindestens über ein Teil ihrer Höhenstreckung ebenfalls mit

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

1 531 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 JAN 2002

Description

**A PARQUET STRIP, THE USE THEREOF FOR MANUFACTURING A PANEL OR
A PARQUET ELEMENT AS WELL AS A PARQUET ELEMENT MANUFACTURED
THEREFROM AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A PARQUET STRIP**

The invention relates to a parquet strip in accordance with the preamble of claim 1, the use thereof for manufacturing a panel or parquet element in accordance with the preamble of claim 3, a parquet element manufactured using a parquet strip of this type in accordance with claim 4 as well as a method of manufacturing a parquet strip in accordance with claim 5.

Both when laying parquets of individual parquet strips and when laying prefabricated parquets including a plurality of parquet strips or fillets which are completely glued onto a support, it is important to prevent moisture from penetrating at the individual cross joints between the respective strips and/or parquet elements. Such a moisture penetration which may occur, for instance, by moist cleaning or else by spilled liquids can disadvantageously entail a swelling of the material in the areas concerned, i.e. in the area of cross joints, which gives the parquet an unpleasant appearance and/or even destroys it.

It is known already to prepare parquet elements or panels having two long sides extending in the longitudinal direction of the element and two narrow sides extending in the transverse direction, the one long side including a groove and the opposite long side including a tongue, in such a manner that the faces of the two long sides are provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation. Such impregnation which is usually provided in the faces between the upper side of the tongue and the upper side of the groove and the later walking cover layer with a high degree of certainty prevents, in combination with the glue introduced to the groove and tongue connection, moisture from penetrating the cross joint at the long sides of the individual parquet elements or panels.

It is the object of the invention to further improve the resistance to moisture of parquet strips or panels or parquet elements manufactured therefrom.

The present invention suggests, for achieving this object, a parquet strip in which the faces at the two narrow sides are equally provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevations.

Furthermore it is a subject matter of the present invention to use a plurality of such parquet strips for manufacturing a panel or parquet element having two long sides extending in the longitudinal direction of the element and two narrow sides extending in the transverse direction of the element, the one long side including a groove and the opposite long side including a tongue and, apart from the faces of the two long sides, also the faces of the two narrow sides being provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation.

Another subject matter of the present invention is constituted by a parquet element which is manufactured using at least a parquet strip according to the invention as well as a method of manufacturing a parquet strip which substantially excels by the fact that the long and narrow sides are provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation.

The subject matter of the present invention makes it possible to impregnate parquet strips at the faces both at the long sides and the narrow sides so that not only the cross joints in the area of the long sides but also the cross joints in the area of the narrow sides are resistant to moisture penetration. If panels or parquet elements are made up of such parquet strips so that a plurality of such strips is applied to a support consisting of a stress compensating means or symmetry means and a medial layer, at first the individual cross joints in the longitudinal direction and the transverse direction between the individual strips are protected against moisture penetration. Furthermore also the finished panel or parquet element is provided with an impregnation at least over a part of the respective elevation there both at its two long sides which usually have a groove and a tongue and at its two narrow sides and thus it is resistant to moisture penetration.

A parquet composed of parquet strips according to the invention or a prefabricated parquetry floor composed of panels or parquet elements thus has a considerably higher resistance to moisture.

In an advantageous development of the invention the impregnation extends at the faces of the two narrow sides over the entire elevation thereof, which, on the one hand, simplifies

the application of the impregnating agent to the respective faces and, on the other hand, further increases the protection against moisture.

Further details, aspects and advantages of the present invention can be taken from the description hereinafter by way of the drawing, in which

Fig. 1 shows a top view onto a parquet strip according to the invention;

Fig. 2 shows a top view onto a panel or parquet element composed of parquet strips according to the invention as shown in Fig. 1;
and

Fig. 3 shows a section across the panel or parquet element as shown in Fig. 2 by an enlarged representation.

Fig. 1 is a top view onto an individual parquet strip or a fillet, as it is called, altogether denoted with reference numeral 2. The strip 2 has two long sides 4 and 6 and two narrow sides 8 and 10. The visible surface 12 facing upward after completed laying can likewise be seen in the top view.

The strip 2 can either be made of completely massive wood or it consists of a veneer layer, for instance of real wood or synthetic material which forms the later visible surface 12, the veneer layer being applied onto an appropriate supporting layer.

Fig. 2 illustrates, likewise in a top view, a panel or parquet element 14 which is composed of a plurality of the strips 2 (2a, 2b, 2c...). The structure of the parquet element 14 is best evident from Fig. 3 which shows a section along the line III-III in Fig. 2. The parquet element 14 is composed of three layers in the shown embodiment including a so-called stress compensating means or symmetry means 16, a medial or supporting layer 18 and a cover layer consisting of the individual strips 2a, 2b, 2c,.... In the supporting layer 18 a groove 20 is formed at one long side 4' of the parquet element 14 and a tongue 22 corresponding hereto is formed in the opposite long side 6'.

The individual layers 16, 18 and 2a, 2b, ... are appropriately connected with each other, for instance glued.

It is known already to provide the long sides 4' and 6' of parquet elements 14 with an impregnation at least in sections, i.e. over a part of the elevation of the faces there. In Fig. 3 this is the face 24 between the upper horizontal surface or wall of the groove 20 and the visible surface 12 and the face 26 between the upper horizontal surface or wall of the tongue 22 and the visible surface 12. The impregnation applied there is to prevent, together with a glue introduced to the groove and tongue connection of the completely laid parquetry floor, moisture penetrating in the area of cross joints of the parquet elements 14 abutting at the long sides 4' and 6' from penetrating the material of the supporting layer 18, for instance, or the connection between the supporting layer 18 and the individual strips 2a, 2b, 2c,....

In the case of the subject matter of the present invention the impregnating material is applied to the individual strips 2 such that both at the long sides 4 and 6 and at the narrow sides 8 and 10 the impregnation is applied at least onto a part of the elevation of the faces defined there. Hence in a later compound either of individually laid strips 2 in accordance with Fig. 1 to obtain a parquetry floor or when arranging the individual strips 2a, 2b, 2c, ... according to Fig. 2 for forming a prefab parquet element (parquet element 14) not only the cross joints 28 at the long sides 4 and 6 of the individual strips 2a, 2b, 2c,... but also the cross joints 30 at the narrow sides of abutting strips 2a, 2b, 2c,... are provided with an impregnation at least over a partial area of their respective elevation. Moreover both the faces 24 and 26 at the long sides 4' and 6' of the parquet element 14 and the narrow sides 8' and 10' of the entire parquet element 14 are provided with an impregnation. The groove and tongue connection of parquet elements 14 adjacent at the long sides 4' and 6' as well as the abutting narrow sides 8' and 10' of parquet elements 14 adjacent in the longitudinal direction and moreover the cross joints 80 and 30 of the individual strips 2a, 2b, 2c,... in the parquet element 14 are thus resistant to penetrating moisture.

The application of the impregnation onto the narrow sides 8 and 10 and/or 8' and 10' can be effected, approximately analogously to the application of the impregnation onto the faces 24 and 26 in the area of the long sides, only over a partial area of the elevation of the surfaces there or else all-over, i.e. over the entire height or thickness of the strip 2 and/or of the parquet element 14.

The type, composition and way of application of the impregnating agent to be used is dependent on the respective conditions, i.e. the material of the strip 2 and/or of the supporting layer 18 and possibly of the stress compensating or symmetry means 16. There are taken into consideration commonly used lacquers, resins, oils, waxes, varnishes etc. They can be applied, for instance by rolling, spreading on, dipping etc. Especially moisture-sensitive kinds of wood, such as beech, but also other kinds of wood or materials for manufacturing the strips 2 and/or the parquet elements or panels 14 can be advantageously protected, by the subject matter of the present invention, against damage by moisture in the area of the cross joints both between individual strips 2 and between individual parquet elements or panels 14.

Claims

1. A parquet strip including two long sides (4, 6) and two narrow sides (8, 10), the faces of the long sides and of the narrow sides being each provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation.
2. A parquet strip according to claim 1, characterized in that the impregnation extends over the entire elevation of the narrow sides (8, 10) and/or the long sides (4, 6).
3. A parquet element including a plurality of parquet strips (2) according to claim 1 or 2 which are arranged on a supporting layer (18).
4. A method of manufacturing a floor panel, comprising a medial or supporting layer (18) onto the area of support of which a stress compensating means is applied and onto the surface of which a plurality of parquet strips is applied, characterized in that the faces of each parquet strip (2) are provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation before glueing with the supporting layer (18).

ABSTRACT**A PARQUET STRIP, THE USE THEREOF FOR MANUFACTURING A PANEL OR A PARQUET ELEMENT AS WELL AS A PARQUET ELEMENT MANUFACTURED THEREFROM AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A PARQUET STRIP**

There is described a parquet strip including two long sides extending in the longitudinal direction of the strip (2) and two narrow sides (8, 10) extending in the transverse direction of the strip (2), wherein the faces of the two long sides (4, 6) are provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation. In accordance with the invention, the faces of the two narrow sides (8, 10) are likewise provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation. A plurality of these parquet strips (2, 2a, 2b, 2c...) can be used for manufacturing a panel or a parquet element (14) including two long sides (4', 6') extending in the longitudinal direction of the element (14) and two narrow sides (8', 10') extending in the transverse direction of the element (14), wherein one long side (4') has a groove (20) and the opposite long side (6') has a tongue (22) and the faces of the two long sides (4', 6') are provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation, and wherein the faces of the two narrow sides (8', 10') are likewise provided with an impregnation at least over a part of their elevation.

FIG. 1

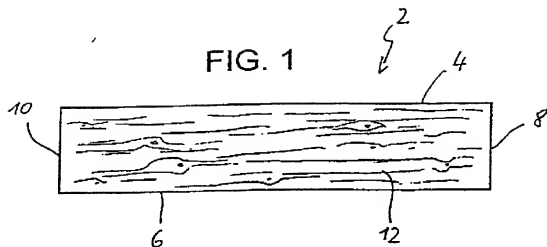


FIG. 2

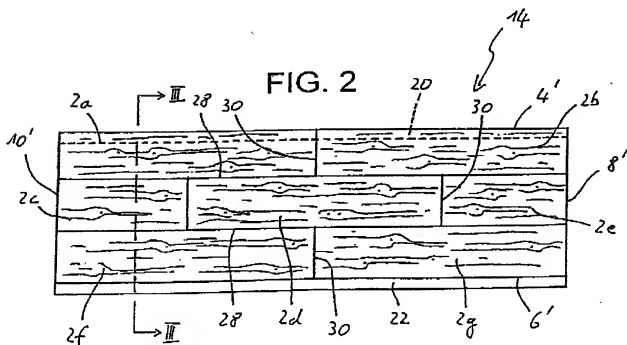
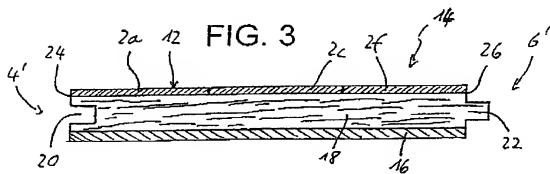


FIG. 3



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY UNDER 35 USC §371(c)(4) FOR PCT APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:
my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below under my name;

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought, namely the invention entitled: A parquet strip, the use thereof for manufacturing a panel or a parquet element as well as a parquet element manufactured therefrom and a method of manufacturing a parquet strip

described and claimed in international application number PCT/DE00/01844 filed June 7, 2000.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56.

Under Title 35, U.S. Code §119, the priority benefits of the following foreign application(s) filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns within one year prior to my international application are hereby claimed:

German Patent Application No. 19925865.I filed June 7, 1999

The following application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention were filed in countries foreign to the United States of America either (a) more than one year prior to my international application, or (b) before the filing date of the above-named foreign priority application(s):

I hereby appoint the following as my attorneys of record with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office:

James A. Oliff, Reg. No. 27,075; William F. Berridge, Reg. No. 30,024;
Kirk M. Hudson, Reg. No. 27,562; Thomas J. Pardini, Reg. No. 30,411;
Edward P. Walker, Reg. No. 31,450; Robert A. Miller, Reg. No. 32,771;
Mario A. Costantino, Reg. No. 33,565; Stephen J. Roe, Reg. No. 34,463;
Joel S. Armstrong, Reg. No. 36,430; Christopher W. Brown, Reg. No. 38,025;
Richard E. Rice, Reg. No. 31,560; and Paul Tsou, Reg. No. 37,956.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, P.O. BOX 19928, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22320, TELEPHONE (703) 836-6400.

I hereby declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of this Declaration, and that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1 Typewritten Full Name
of Sole or First Inventor

2 Inventor's Signature:

Date of Signature:

Residence:

Citizenship:

| Peter | | HAMBERGER | |
|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Given Name | Middle Initial | Family Name | |
| <u>Peter</u> | <u></u> | <u>Hamberger</u> | |
| <u>01</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>02</u> | |
| Month | Day | Year | |
| <u>Stephanskirchen</u> | <u>Bavaria</u> | <u>GERMANY</u> | |
| City | State or Province | Country | |
| <u>German</u> | | | |
| Post Office Address: | | <u>Rohrdorfer Str. 133</u> | |
| (Insert complete mailing address, including country) | | <u>D-83071 Stephanskirchen GERMANY</u> | |

Note to Inventor: Please sign name on line 2 exactly as it appears in line 1 and insert the actual date of signing on line 3.

IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE INVENTOR USE PAGE 2 AND PLACE AN "X" HERE ☒

(Discard this page in a sole inventor application)

20
1 *Typewritten Full Name
of Joint Inventor*

2 *Inventor's Signature:*

3 *Date of Signature:*

Residence:

Citizenship:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| August | HIPPER | |
| Given Name | Middle Initial | Family Name |
| August | 11 | 02 |
| Month | Day | Year |
| Rohrdorf | Bavaria | GERMANY |
| City | State or Province | Country |
| German | | |
| Post Office Address: (Insert complete mailing address, including country) | | |
| Osterham 21 D-83101 Rohrdorf GERMANY | | |

1 *Typewritten Full Name
of Joint Inventor*

2 *Inventor's Signature:*

3 *Date of Signature:*

Residence:

Citizenship:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Given Name | Middle Initial | Family Name |
| Month | Day | Year |
| City | State or Province | Country |
| Post Office Address: (Insert complete mailing address, including country) | | |

1 *Typewritten Full Name
of Joint Inventor*

2 *Inventor's Signature:*

3 *Date of Signature:*

Residence:

Citizenship:

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|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Given Name | Middle Initial | Family Name |
| Month | Day | Year |
| City | State or Province | Country |
| Post Office Address: (Insert complete mailing address, including country) | | |

1 *Typewritten Full Name
of Joint Inventor*

2 *Inventor's Signature:*

3 *Date of Signature:*

Residence:

Citizenship:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Given Name | Middle Initial | Family Name |
| Month | Day | Year |
| City | State or Province | Country |
| Post Office Address: (Insert complete mailing address, including country) | | |

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This form may be executed only when attached to the first page of the Declaration and Power of Attorney of the application to which it pertains.